

# WASHINGTON.

Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1853.

## THE HONDURAS QUESTION.

With the view of convicting the Administration of President TAYLOR of having, by secret arrangement between the negotiators of the Clayton and Bulwer treaty, excluded from the operation of that treaty a portion of the Central American territory which the treaty reserved from the occupation or colonization of either party, the Washington Union labored long to make out that the British settlement of the Belize, or British Honduras, so called, is situated in and a part of the Central American States, and was therefore comprehended in the terms of the treaty. Our readers will recollect that before exchanging the ratifications of the treaty Secretary CLAYTON received from the Hon. W. R. KING, chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Senate, a note stating it to have been the clear understanding of the Senate when that body ratified the treaty that it did not include the Belize, or British Honduras. This note of Senator KING's was so explicit and so authoritative that one would have supposed the question to be settled, and that our contemporary, the Union, would have frankly yielded to the weight of testimony against it. That, however, it did not see fit to do. On the contrary, it persevered in its geographical absurdity. It might indeed have succumbed to the united testimony of all the writers on American geography, all the gazetteers, and all known maps which we cited last week against it; but fortunately, we should rather say unfortunately for it, the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Senate some days ago made a report on the subject, assuming, strange to say, the same general ground which the Union had so erroneously contended for. With an auxiliary so respectable and so weighty, the Union has returned to the discussion with increased vehemence and apparent confidence.

Let us examine for a moment the nature of the support which the report of the committee affords to the positions of the Union. It appears to consist mainly in the following passage, which the Union triumphantly quotes in its number of the 16th, and it is therefore fair to presume that it is the strongest which the report furnishes:

"The committee, from the information before them, entertain a decided opinion that the British settlements at Belize, as defined by the treaties with Spain, lie within the territory of the republic of Guatemala, and so equally constitute a part of 'Central America.' Should such be the fact, whilst the committee are not prepared to say that the engagements of the treaty of 1850 would require that those settlements shall be abandoned and discontinued on the part of Great Britain, yet this Government would have just cause of complaint against any extension of the limits of these settlements beyond those prescribed by Spain, or as further allowed by the republics where they may be found; and that in any manner to enlarge or change the character of those settlements, by any mode of jurisdiction, would be in violation of said treaty."

We are entirely willing to concede to the Union all the support which this passage of the report gives to it. The committee, it is true, expresses a decided opinion, but that opinion is subsequently qualified, and the whole argument is hypothetical, and neutralized by the admissions which follow. It is further neutralized in another part of the report, where the committee say that they have conducted their inquiries, in reference to the Belize settlements on the assumption that they lie altogether within the territory of Guatemala, "which assumption they are aware may not pass unquestioned." Truly it may not, and cannot.

The strong card of the Union, however, is the following extract from a letter addressed by Secretary WEBSTER, in 1841, to Mr. MURPHY, confidential agent of the United States to Central America, which is inserted in the report of the committee.

"In 1835 the Government of Central America asked for the mediation of this Government with that of Great Britain with a view to restrain the British settlers at Belize, in Honduras, from passing upon territory beyond the confines allotted to them by the treaties between Great Britain and Spain in regard to that settlement. Central America, so far as its territory was embraced by the limits mentioned in those treaties, HAVING, OF COURSE, SUCCEEDED TO ALL THE RIGHTS OF SPAIN."

We confess our surprise that the committee or the Union should rely on this despatch to sustain their opinion that "the Belize settlements are within the State of Guatemala." If we are not incapable of construing plain English, the argument involves a clear non sequitur. Analyze the language of Mr. WEBSTER, and what is its true interpretation? The Government of Central America asks for our mediation with Great Britain to restrain the British settlers at Belize, in Honduras, from passing upon territory beyond the confines allotted to them by Spain; that is, from passing from the Belize, which they had occupied for a century, into the territory of Central America. If the honorable committee had not quoted this despatch of Mr. WEBSTER in support of their opinion, we should say that it was directly against them, and proves the contrary.

It would be a misapplication of space, even if we had time for the task, to pursue the Union through all its sophistries on this subject. In the face of the concurrent testimony of geographers, statesmen, and diplomats, it will doubtless argue still, and still insist on removing the Belize from Yucatan to Central America. We leave it to this profitable labor, and turn to a matter of more immediate interest to ourselves; one in which our own accuracy has been impeached by the Union, and which we must crave the patience of our readers to put right.

Our contemporary, in its issue of Saturday last, complains that we have charged the Administration of President POLK with having known and acquiesced in the British expedition which, under Captain LOCK, attacked and took the town of San Juan de Nicaragua on the 8th of February, 1848, and the Fort Serrapqui on the 12th of the same month. Now, we make no charges that we are not prepared to sustain.

If the Editor will turn to the documents published by Congress, he will see that Mr. POLK and Mr. BUCHANAN were repeatedly warned, not only by the authorities of Nicaragua, but by their own Consul and Agent at Nicaragua, of the intention and determination of the British Government to fit out the expedition and attack the State of Nicaragua before the expedition sailed; and that no steps were taken, none whatever, to prevent the attack, or even to remonstrate against it. This we call knowing and acquiescing.

Senior BUTRAGO, the Secretary of State of the State of Nicaragua, in a letter to the Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN, dated the 12th of November, 1847, solicited the friendly offices of this Government to prevent the attack upon the town of San Juan de

Nicaragua, then contemplated by the British authorities. In this letter he informs Mr. BUCHANAN that "the object of the British Government in taking this key of the continent is, not to protect the small tribe of Mosquitos, but to establish their own empire over the Atlantic extremity of the line, by which a canal connecting the two oceans is most practicable, insuring to them the preponderance on the American continent, as well as direct relations with Asia, the East Indies, and other important countries in the world." This letter was never answered.

Again, the President and Supreme Director of the State of Nicaragua, Don JOSE GUERRERA, on the 15th day of the same month, addressed a communication to President POLK, in which he says: "My desire was carried to the utmost on seeing in your message, at the opening of the 29th Congress of your Republic, a sincere profession of political faith (meaning the Monroe declaration) in all respects conformable with the principles professed by these States, determined as they are to sustain with firmness the continental cause, the rights of America in general, and the non-interference of European Powers in their concerns." He also announces the critical situation in which Nicaragua was then placed, and charges upon the Court of St. James "a well-known design to establish colonies on the coast of Nicaragua, and to render itself master of the inter-oceanic canal, for which so many facilities are presented by the isthmus in that State." No notice was ever taken of this communication by President POLK. Mr. POLK's Administration slumbered over the Monroe doctrine he had announced in his message to Congress, even after he had been reminded of it by the President of Nicaragua. The doctrine was not applied by Mr. POLK, after it was loudly called for by Nicaragua in her distress.

Again, JOSEPH W. LIVINGSTON, Consul for the port of San Juan de Nicaragua, thus wrote to Mr. BUCHANAN on the 16th of December, 1847: "On my arrival at this port I am informed that the English Government will take possession of this place on the 1st proximo, in the name of the King of the Mosquito coast. As I have read the correspondence which has passed between the Government of Nicaragua and the British Consul General for Central America, CYRUS CHATFIELD, Esq., there can be no doubt of the truth of the report." And on the 8th of April, 1848, Mr. LIVINGSTON thus wrote to Mr. BUCHANAN, after the British forces had seized San Juan: "At the request of the Government of Nicaragua, I have forwarded to your Department a package of papers containing the correspondence relative to the occupation of the port of San Juan by the British forces in the name of the Mosquito nation." Notwithstanding all these notices, Mr. POLK never moved in the matter.

And, further, the Nicaraguan Minister CASTELLON, on the 5th of November, 1848, addressed a letter to Mr. BUCHANAN, while here in Washington, asking this Government to "instruct its Minister in London to sustain the rights of Nicaragua to her territory, and especially to the port of San Juan, claimed by Mosquito," expressing "the hope that the Government of the Union, firmly adhering to its principle of resisting foreign intervention in America, would not hesitate to order such steps to be taken as might be effective, before things reached a point in which the intervention of the United States would prove of no avail." To this letter no answer appears to have been made, nor were any instructions given to our Minister in London, in pursuance of the request which it contained.

These are among the many and abundant proofs which will satisfy the Union that Mr. POLK not only knew but acquiesced in the British expedition which, under Captain LOCK, commanding the British ships-of-war "Alarm" and "Vixen," conquered and took possession of the greater part of Nicaragua just six days after the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, by which we acquired California. Neither Mr. POLK nor Mr. BUCHANAN ever made any effort to remove the British from Central America, or to prevent the expedition of Captain LOCK. The Administration acquiesced in the British attack, after being fully and repeatedly apprized of the intention of the British Government to make it.

The Union considers our statement as "an atrocious charge against the memory of Mr. POLK," to wit, that "he knew and acquiesced in the British expedition." However atrocious the charge may be, it is now completely proved, and the Union cannot disprove it. After stating that we had made such a charge, the Union adds, "and this, too, with the instructions of Mr. Buchanan to Mr. Hise before us." The instructions of Mr. BUCHANAN to Mr. HISE, so far from mending the matter, made it worse. They quote the Monroe declaration, and make the following apology for not enforcing it: "But what can the United States do to resist such European interference, whilst the Spanish American Republics continue to weaken themselves by division and civil war, and deprive themselves of the ability of doing any thing for their own protection?" Such is the reason rendered for not applying the Monroe doctrine. It appears that it is never to be enforced in favor of States which are unable to do any thing for their own protection. But in this non-interference Mr. BUCHANAN was perfectly consistent with himself, and so was Mr. POLK, for in the debate on the Panama mission in 1826 both those gentlemen repudiated the Monroe declaration as a thing which, having "performed its office," was to be considered as a dead letter.

President TAYLOR never made proclamation of any doctrine such as Mr. POLK made about the European non-interference on the American continent. Yet, during his brief Administration, his Secretary of State, under his direction, negotiated Great Britain out of the whole of the Central American Confederation! Verily the practice is better than preaching.

ARMY GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL.—The trial of Major PORTER, which has occupied the Court since the 25th ultimo, is drawing to a close, the testimony on both sides being concluded. The accused has been attended during the investigation by his counsel, J. M. CARLISLE and CHARLES ABERT, Esqs., by the latter of whom the opening statement was made. The reading of the defence is fixed for to-day, after which it is supposed that the Court will speedily be dissolved.

"WHAT A COUNTRY!"—for Newspapers.—We received yesterday a copy of a second newspaper—a very large and handsome sheet—just established at Pond-du-Lac, a place some distance west of the extreme western point of Lake Superior.

Col. SAM. STARKWEATHER, a well known member of the Bar, died at the residence of his son-in-law, Judge CAMPBELL, in New York, on Wednesday.

## NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCE.

We have been favored with an opportunity of examining the draught of a report, which will shortly be presented to Congress, prepared by J. D. ANDREWS, Esq., in pursuance of a resolution of the Senate requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to communicate full statements of the trade of the British North American Colonies with the United States and other parts of the world, in the years 1850 and 1851, with information relative to the trade of the Great Lakes. In confiding this task to Mr. Andrews, the Secretary of the Treasury, in his instructions, directed that subjects of national or great local interest, germane to the spirit of the resolution of the Senate, should be embraced in the report. The result of these enlightened instructions of the Secretary of the Treasury, and of the efficient and intelligent execution of them by Mr. Andrews, is a report presenting perhaps as much commercial information as has ever been communicated in one of our public documents.

We could not do justice to this report by giving an analysis of its contents in the short space which we can afford in our columns, and can only invite attention to the prominent topics discussed.

The trade of the Great Lakes, which is now one of the chief sources and illustrations of our national prosperity, occupies a prominent portion of the report. We congratulate our Western friends that they can refer here to a detailed and comprehensive description of the most magnificent internal commerce that the world has ever known. Connected with the subject of the Lake trade, the report contains complete statements of the trade of the Mississippi and its principal cities, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville, and New Orleans.

The trade of the principal of the British North American Colonies (Canada) is also connected with that of the Lakes. Mr. Andrews has given full statistics of the commerce of Canada, as well as each of the other colonies. But, as the subject of the future commercial relations between the United States and these colonies is now before Congress, Mr. Andrews has very properly abstained from any arguments on the vexed question of reciprocity. He has simply presented the facts which bear upon the subject, and has left conclusions to the statesmen before whom the facts are placed.

A striking feature of the report is that relating to the fisheries of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, exhibiting as they do the immense advantages which our fishermen would obtain from being admitted to the same rights of catching and curing fish as are enjoyed by British subjects, which rights were unfortunately relinquished on our part by the Treaty of 1818. Another valuable article, on the French fisheries of Newfoundland, shows that the French Government is fully awake to the importance of protecting that great nursery of her seamen.

The surplus productions of the Northwest, flowing into the Lakes, must reach the seaboard; and, to effect this, a grand system of artificial communication by canals and railroads has been devised. This system, which can be comprehended only by tracing its connexion with the most important works of internal communication in the United States, has been fully described by Mr. Andrews in all its ramifications. The trade of the Northwest, flowing partly into the Mississippi and thence to New Orleans, is alluded to that of the Gulf of Mexico.

We have read with great interest the article in the appendix to the report, containing an able paper on the military and geographical position of the Straits of Florida, through which that commerce flows, and also on the value of the commerce and trade of New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico, the latter prepared by the present accomplished Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

We are happy to see that the great export trade of the Southern States and their principal cities, New Orleans, Charleston, and Baltimore, are properly noticed, and have read with gratification the able and important article on the great American staple, cotton, which branch of the report we are quite sure will command deep attention by the striking views and remarkable statistical statements which it presents.

Accompanying the report are three original maps: one exhibiting the basin of the great Lakes and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and strikingly illustrating the importance of the free navigation of the St. Lawrence to the Lake trade, as well as the value of the free fisheries of the Gulf to our Eastern fishermen; a second exhibiting the network of railroads and canals of the United States, and showing how wonderfully the great Lakes, the Mississippi, and the Atlantic are bound together by them; and the third showing the Gulf of Mexico, the coasts, and islands between Charleston and Vera Cruz, and the Straits of Florida, through which the commerce of the world may one day flow to and from the Pacific. This map, prepared by the able and laborious officers of the Coast Survey, is one among many examples of the incidental advantages which the commerce of the country derives from this department of the public service.

We particularly commend this report for its national character. It displays the value of our home trade and internal commerce, and our real independence of foreign States across the ocean. But, more than all, it illustrates the transcendent value of the commercial union of the States, and proves that all considerations of interest must bind them to an enduring political union.

## PRESIDENT FILLMORE AT HOME.

The annexed resolutions, so proper both in sentiment and language, have been adopted by the Mayor and Common Council of the city of Buffalo. While they do justice to the President himself, the compliment which they offer to the eminent gentlemen who compose his Cabinet will be applauded by the honorable and unprejudiced of all parties.

"The eminently pure and successful administration of Mr. FILLMORE being about to terminate."

Resolved, That we congratulate him upon his approaching release from a position which he never coveted, and in which he has so nobly won an enduring place in his grateful country's history; and upon his return to the more congenial avocations of unofficial life, where alone patriotic services can be reconciled with private felicity, we share with our fellow-citizens of Buffalo the just pride and general joy with which they look forward to his residence among us.

Resolved, That the enthusiasm of his reception would be augmented, and the highest pleasure conferred upon the people of our city, if he should, on his return to us, be accompanied by the distinguished statesmen who have participated in the care and shared in the glory of his Administration; and we earnestly request them so to enable us to testify our respect and gratitude for their high character and eminent public services.

Resolved, That his honor the Mayor communicate these resolutions to Mr. FILLMORE and to each member of his Cabinet.

## DISPERSION OF THE MEXICAN CONGRESS.

The New Orleans Picayune of the 9th instant contains the subjoined particulars of the dispersion of the Mexican Congress, of which we had a Telegraphic report a few days ago:

President Cevallos made a coup d'etat on the night of the 10th, closing *la Camerilla* the sessions of the Congress which had shortly before placed him in power. We translate from the *Siglo Diez y Nueve* the following account of the affair:

"Fifteen days since the Chamber of Deputies elected Juan B. Cevallos President *ad interim* of the Republic; and fifteen days since he swore to maintain the constitution. As soon as a Ministry was formed the Government was invested with dictatorial powers, delegated by Congress, which could in no wise embarrass the course of the Government."

"Day before yesterday rumors were circulated that the Government intended to pronounce. The Ministry intended the Chambers that it was preparing a bill which was to save the country. Yesterday Señor Fuentes resigned the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The portfolio was offered to Señor Montes, who declined it. The chief clerk sent to the Chamber a draft of a bill, as follows:

"Art. 1. Convoking a National Convention.  
"Art. 2. To meet in Mexico on the 15th June.  
"Art. 3. Government to give it a report of its acts on the first day of the session.  
"Not to remain in session more than one year, to reform the constitution, elect President *ad interim*, and exercise legislative powers.  
"Art. 5. Governors of States to order election of representatives."

"Congress went into secret session and agreed to it still the bill was disposed of. Committee on it reported at half-past six against the bill, and recommended it to be sent to the committee on the grand jury. This was carried, and this committee proceeded to take the declaration of President Cevallos, in order to present an accusation against him of intruding against the constitution. The President refused to answer, denying the authority of Congress to impeach him."

"Congress continued its session amid the greatest excitement. The palace, meanwhile, was filled with the military. Annihilation was sent from Vera Cruz came to the hall dressed in citizen's dress and followed by one hundred soldiers of the National Guard, and seized the avenues and doors, and called the President of the Chamber out."

"Señor Montes went out, and Señor Maria gave him a verbal order from the President of the Republic to dissolve Congress. Señor Montes returned to the Chamber, announced the fact that had occurred, and vacated the chair, which was taken by Señor Guzman, as Vice President, who declared the session closed. A protest was agreed by acclamation. Gen. Martin marched into the centre of the hall and cleared the seats at the point of the bayonet. The members then directed their course to the Convention of San Francisco, but were forced back by troops. They then went to the Convent of Espiritu Santo, where they drew up a manifesto and protest."

"Here the commander of the guards came to them with about fifty men, which he left at the door, and told them the members present that the President requested them to dissolve, and not force him to extremities. Señor Garcia Aguirre, who was presiding, refused to do so, and the business of the session will turn upon the constitutional convention, which will most probably be called. The intended changes, however, will not be effected when it is called."

Mr. BEALE, Indian Agent, in his visit to the Tulare county, had been successful in his negotiations with the Indians. He has restored peace and satisfaction to the savages, who seem willing to work for their own support, now that they see they are compelled to do so.

The latest intelligence from the Southern mines represents a great improvement in the weather and the winds. The extreme stringency in the provision market was relaxing as supplies came in, and there was a good prospect that the end of another fortnight would find the mining population prosperous and happy.

The Sacramento Union is unable to estimate the damage sustained by those engaged in farming and stock-raising in the Sacramento and Joaquin valleys, by the "world of water" which now covers their surface, but thinks the work of destruction has been nearly complete. Thousands of head of stock, including horses, mules, cattle, sheep, and hogs, have been drowned; in many instances houses washed away; hundreds of tons of hay destroyed; improvements of all kinds, including growing vegetable crops, either totally destroyed or rendered nearly valueless by the length of time they have been submerged.

From all parts of the interior we have melancholy accounts of the suffering and destruction caused by the late freshets.

The advices from Los Angeles are to the 1st of January. The Star of that date says that the United States survey was proceeding favorably, the base line being already completed seventy miles. It will probably touch the sea coast some four miles north of Los Angeles. Mr. GRAY is following Col. WASHINGTON, and is surveying a range of townships.

There are at present thirty churches in San Francisco. This is about one to each thousand inhabitants, and, judging from other cities, is perhaps about a fair average. The Methodists have four; the Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Baptists, two each; the Congregationalists, Roman Catholics, Swedenborgians, and Welsh, one each; in addition to these, there is a church in Spring Valley, where ministers of the various denominations officiate, and there is also a Unitarian congregation in the city, whose pastor has recently been removed by the hand of death.

We learn from the Railroad Journal that the Air Line railroad from New York to Boston has been placed under contract to parties of character and experience. The road, when completed, will form the nearest practicable route between the two cities, and will be some twenty miles at least shorter than any other route.

LETTERS FOR AUSTRALIA.—The emigration from the United States to Australia may render it of interest to some of our citizens to know that mails are made up in England for Australia via Southampton on the 20th of each month, and via Marseilles on the 24th of the month, and via Cape of Good Hope on the 2d of every alternate month, commencing in February. Those made up on the 20th and 24th of each month, via Southampton and Marseilles, are at present sent by sailing vessels from Singapore.

A CASE OF CONSCIENCE.—A reverend gentleman of the Catholic Church called at our office on Saturday last and handed in thirty dollars in gold, which he stated had been delivered by a person in the confessional to be disposed of as above mentioned. We presume it to be a case of conscience connected with some transaction of which we know nothing, and of course could inquire nothing of the worthy priest who received the money under the seal of confession. The mention of the incident may possibly serve to prick the consciences of some delinquent subscribers to our own or other journals; though, in regard to our own, we must in justice acknowledge we have but little to complain of.

GAS AND WATER.—Philadelphia last year consumed 3,250,177,762 gallons of water, and 1,415,168,090 feet of gas. The daily average consumption of water in the city proper and districts of Southwark and Moyamensing was 5,731,744 gallons.

DEADLY ACCIDENT AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—A dreadful accident occurred on the 4th. A ship was conveying 40 soldiers of the guard to a steam frigate about to leave for Dalmatia, and it was driven by the violence of the current against a large vessel anchored near the Seraglio. The shock was so violent that all the men were thrown into the water; and they, being incumbered with their arms and baggage, were all drowned, with the exception of four or five, who were picked up by the boats of the English, Russian, and French men-of-war.

THE MECHANICS' STRIKE.—Resolutions were adopted by the mechanics this morning that the eight hundred men from their arms and baggage, were all drowned, with the exception of four or five, who were picked up by the boats of the English, Russian, and French men-of-war.

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## CALIFORNIA INTELLIGENCE.

The latest dates from San Francisco are to the 15th of January. The Legislature of the State met on the 3d, but had no business of moment.

The message of Gov. BLOKER enters minutely into the financial affairs of the State. To lessen its expenses the Governor recommends that the State Constitution be changed in several particulars. One amendment proposes that biennial instead of annual sessions of the Legislature shall be held, such sessions being limited to ninety days' duration. It is further proposed to abolish the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Surveyor-General, Superintendent of Public Buildings, State Prison Inspectors, and to limit the Judicial Districts to eight, instead of eleven, as at present constituted. Reduction of salaries is also recommended, as well as a modification of our hospital laws. The Governor supposes, if his suggestions be acted upon, that an annual saving to the Treasury of \$512,700 can be made. The San Francisco Whig says:

"The document is conclusive on one point, viz. that under the present state of affairs, and with the present management of our State Government, we are surely and rapidly advancing to a condition of irretrievable bankruptcy. The startling fact is made to appear that our expenditures exceed our receipts nearly \$600,000 per annum. Our present civil debt is shown to be \$1,388,212; the war debt is \$771,190; making the entire debt of the State \$2,159,403."

The Governor also suggests that Congress should be memorialized on the subject of the agricultural lands of the State.

Two-thirds of these lands, he says, are claimed under Mexican and Spanish grants, the validity of which is yet undetermined. The present law on the subject is defective, and should be repealed. The claims should be brought into the United States District Court, instead of being subjected to the circuitous proceedings of the Board of Commissioners, as at present. The Governor also calls the attention of the Legislature to the importance of agriculture to the State, and recommends that an effort be made to increase the passage of the bill by Congress donating the public lands in limited quantities to actual settlers. He further recommends that an effort should be made to reclaim the swamp lands belonging to the State, and to secure the possession in fee simple to those who have settled upon them.

Movements have been made in both branches of the Legislature tending to relieve the people of California from speculations in articles of prime necessity. Committees have been instructed to inquire into the causes of the present high price of flour, and to report bills to prevent monopoly in that article.

The "Alta California" says that the old project of calling a constitutional convention is once more on the tapis.

"The ostensible object, it says, as set forth by the Executive in his message, is to abolish certain offices created by the constitution. The real end is the abolition of the anti-slavery clause and the division of the State. The first, if it aims at the accomplishment of any definite object, contemplates the introduction of slavery here—a scheme which all men whose intellects are not clouded by prejudice know to be the worst and most chimerical ever entertained by intelligent men. As for the division of the State, after more than a year's investigation, we can discover no plausible reason for it. The advocates of the measure have never yet shown what was to be gained by it, in a political or financial point of view. But the business of the session will turn upon the constitutional convention, which will most probably be called. The intended changes, however, will not be effected when it is called."

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DEADLY ACCIDENT AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—A dreadful accident occurred on the 4th. A ship was conveying 40 soldiers of the guard to a steam frigate about to leave for Dalmatia, and it was driven by the violence of the current against a large vessel anchored near the Seraglio. The shock was so violent that all the men were thrown into the water; and they, being incumbered with their arms and baggage, were all drowned, with the exception of four or five, who were picked up by the boats of the English, Russian, and French men-of-war.

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BALTIMORE, FEB. 15.—Resolutions were adopted by the mechanics this morning that the eight hundred men from their arms and baggage, were all drowned, with the exception of four or five, who were picked up by the boats of the English, Russian, and French men-of-war.

## NEWS BY THE TELEGRAPH.

### FROM EUROPE.

The steamer Niagara brings dates from Liverpool to the 26th ultimo. Amongst her passengers is Chevalier HULSEMANN.

The price of cotton, during the week ending the 26th, advanced an eighth, on fair and good qualities. Breadstuffs in the mean time declined—flour a shilling per barrel, wheat twopence per bushel, and corn a shilling per quarter.

A good business was doing in American securities. It was rumored that Sir FRANCIS BARING is soon to succeed Mr. GLADSTONE as Chancellor of the British Exchequer.

The civil marriage contract of the Emperor NAPOLEON has been signed, and the 30th ultimo was appointed for the religious ceremony.

The BARINGS have lent Spain fifty-seven million francs on security of the national property.

### LATER.

The steamer Alps arrived at New York last night with dates from Liverpool to the 2d instant.

Cotton had slightly advanced, and flour and other breadstuffs further declined.

Viscount MELBOURNE, ex-Premier of Great Britain, is dead.

The marriage of the French Emperor took place on the 29th at the Tuilleries. The Paris papers state that the ceremony was conducted with noble simplicity in the presence of about eight hundred persons. The religious ceremonies took place on the succeeding day at the Church of Notre Dame, and were signalized with great pomp and splendor. The populace having turned out *en masse*, the city being decorated with flags in all directions, and the streets lined with military, presented a scene most impressive.

The Emperor refuses to allow the Senate to settle any notation upon her. This, coupled with her previous refusal to receive a set of jewelry from the municipal council, had produced a very favorable impression of her.

Napoleon's speech announcing his intended marriage has created prodigious sensation at Vienna. The answer given by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Austrian Ambassador, relative to the Emperor's allusion to Maria Louisa, is not deemed satisfactory. A difficulty still exists between the two Governments concerning the time the Roman States are to be occupied by French troops. The *Lloyds*, of Vienna, announces a definite arrangement of the differences between Austria and the United States.

The Turks have commenced active operations against Montenegro. They have destroyed three villages by fire, and Osman Pacha, with twenty-four thousand troops, is pushing on toward the capital. Austria has dispatched Count Jellachich to the frontiers with eighteen thousand troops.

### Still Later from Europe.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 17.—The steamship America arrived here this morning from Liverpool, with dates to the 4th instant.

The London Morning Advertiser says that a packet of eighty letters has been stolen from the Emperor's private apartment, and suspicion rests upon Mrs. Howard. Letters which implicate the first men of France are also thought to be in her possession. A reward of 300,000 francs has been offered for their recovery.

Paris has resumed its wonted quiet. The Emperor and Empress remain at St. Cloud